Athens State Looks Toward the Future

Gage Craig, Jessica Baker
Assistant Editors

The first thing that The Athenian staff noticed about Dr. Ingle during the Staff’s interview with him is that he is extremely personable. After being asked how he would like to “introduce” himself to the Athens student body, Dr. Ingle replied, that one of his favorite things about working in colleges is interacting with students, but given the nature of Athens State’s student body, composed of mostly non-traditional students, the opportunity for student interaction is less present than at other schools. If you happen to meet Dr. Ingle, introduce yourself, and tell him how your time at Athens State University has been thus far. In the same vein as his predilection for student interaction, Dr. Ingle also said that he feels that most issues can be solved by “sitting down and talking it out.”

Dr. Ingle has spent the majority of his time in meetings with small groups of Athens State Faculty (6-10 members) since his hiring. He has met with both the Faculty and Staff Senate in order to “have conversations and listen” in order to plan the future of Athens State University. Dr. Ingle said in our interview that he believes in a “shared governance” approach rather than a “top down” style of doing things in a college setting. An example of this, Dr. Ingle said, is his proposal for the Faculty Senate to consider reducing the amount of hours required by Athens State students from sixty to fifty-one hours. Another suggestion given by the new Provost is that we should also work more closely with our sister school, Calhoun Community College, as well as with other neighboring Community Colleges.

Another thing that Dr. Ingle seems focused on is the availability of Masters Programs at Athens State University. He believes that in the coming years this will be a major focus for the school.

An immediate impact to come out of his hiring is the alleviation of issues within the administration “trickling down” into the classroom. Dr. Ingle acknowledged that he and the faculty will not always agree, but he believes that through transparency and communication the stress level of the entire school will lower.

Dr. Ingle expressed a familiarity and fondness for what he called the “rich history” of Athens State University. He believes that it is important to be aware and respectful of the history, the “roots,” of the institution; this respect along with his willingness to communicate with both the students and the faculty shapes a promising outline for his time as interim Provost.

Mr. Stepp also wants to revamp clubs and organizations on campus. He invites any students who are interested in starting a club or organization to please stop by his office in the Classroom Building, Room 105.

He can also be reached by phone @ 256-233-8241 or by email Terry.Stepp@athens.edu.

As students, we are excited about all of the new faces on campus and the new ideas presented.

University of Alabama graduate, Terry Stepp, is the new Director for Campus and Community Engagement. He uses his experiences working in Residence Life at University of Alabama, Stony Brook University in New York, and University of West Alabama to help improve student activities at Athens State University.

Mr. Stepp shared his many hobbies with The Athenian staff, which include singing, fishing, reading, cooking, and planning events. Mr. Stepp hopes to help students connect with the college and the community by providing numerous opportunities to participate in events both on campus and online.

My long-term ambitions are to increase student involvement by centralizing student activities, creating more activities for both on campus and online students and by creating a recreation center where students, faculty and staff can interact and stay connected.

University for 14 years, and he has held administrative and teaching positions at the University of South Carolina, Kennesaw College, and South Georgia College. Before venturing to Athens State, Dr. Ingle served a two-year appointment as Executive Vice President at Young Harris College. Dr. Ingle’s focus has been on assisting higher education institutions during periods of transition. Dr. Ingle’s experience serving in numerous civic and educational boards is one of many reasons he has been selected to guide Athens State University through this transitional period.

The Athenian

Athens State University has recently hired a new interim Provost, Dr. Ronald Ingle. Dr. Ingle has a rich history in Educational Administration. He served as the first President of Coastal Carolina University for 14 years, and he has been selected to guide Athens State University through this transitional period.

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Athens State Help Desk Has Moved
Please look for us in Waters Hall S-202

The Athensian is published with funds from the Athens State University Student Activities fund and advertising revenue. It is distributed free of charge to members of the faculty, staff, and student body.

The staff of The Athenian follows the Associated Collegiate Press, Model Code of Ethics for Collegiate Journalists. The Athenian office is located in the Classroom Building Room 105.

The Athenian welcomes letters and columns from students, staff, faculty, administration and alumni. All submissions are subject to approval of the editorial board and advisor. Submissions must be accompanied by a name, address and phone number. The editorial board reserves the right to edit submissions for brevity, style, clarity and liability.

Submissions should focus on the issues rather than personalities. Proof of identification may be required. Submissions must be limited to 400-500 words, and may be delivered via mail, e-mail, or in person.

Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Athens State University Administration, faculty, or the student body at large.

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Phi Beta Lambda Christmas Party

Jim Kerner,
Associate Professor of Management

The Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) has its inaugural Christmas party for members and significant others this past December and was hosted by Dr. Jim and Professor Laura Lynn Kerner, advisor and co-advisor. The attendees brought goodies, exchanges gifts, played various holiday games and some even wore their favorite tacky Christmas sweater. Dalton Farmer, PBL president, rocked his grandmother’s sweater, and won hands down- there was not even a remote second place!

Those attending were Dalton Farmer and Kayla Waddle, Kevin Keenan, Diane Hammond, Brad and Andrea Colburn, Ginger Weber, Chris Estes and fiancée, and Marion Madison, retired Athens State professor. After enjoying delicious food and fighting over fun gifts, Dalton taught the group to play “The Game of Things.” We all laughed until our sides split!

The club meets every Monday with the next meeting being held on March 2nd at 12:00 noon in Room 104 of the Classroom Building, and all students across campus are invited. Rumor has it that there will be food!
Gage Craig, Assistant Editor

Leaving behind a school is often not a pleasant experience; colleges try to make the student experience a pleasant one and because of this, college is one of the best places to meet people, become active in the community, and to build up experience and expertise that will stick with a student for life. Once a student graduates from Athens State University their experience with the school does not have to end. “Young Alumni Advisory Council,” or YAAC is an organization that exists to help students maintain a connection with Athens State University. YAAC exists to “bridge the gap” between Athens students, and Athens alumni who are not yet eligible to join the Alumni Board. An Athenian member sits in on every YAAC meeting in order to inform YAAC members of the school’s current activities. In an interview Trish DiLullo, Director of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving, said that there is often a gap in understanding even between recent graduates and current students. This relative leniency in YAAC’s admission policy is due to the variety in Athens State’s graduates’ age. YAAC prides itself on its diversity in age, major, ethnicity, and location. No matter where a student goes after his or her time at Athens State that student can still be a part of the school. YAAC is even open to distance learning students. Sometimes distance learning students feel more disconnected from the experience than a student who takes classes primarily on-campus. YAAC not only provides students with the opportunity to maintain their connection with Athens State; they also provide students who want to maintain the connection (distance learning or on-campus students) another opportunity to get involved. YAAC is a relatively new organization at Athens State University and has not had a chance to organize many events. However, YAAC did have the opportunity to organize a very successful disc golf tournameant, which garnered the organization start up proceeds. Undoubtedly this will not be the only event that YAAC leads. This organization has the makings of a great mediator between current students, recent alumni, and veteran Athens State University Alumni.

YAAC is currently accepting applications. You can find information about YAAC on the Athens State Website—this is where you will find the application also.

You also can contact Trish DiLullo at 256-233-8184

Tuition Costs are a Greater Financial Burden for Today’s Working Student

Joshua Zender, Student

Average tuition costs when adjusted for inflation have more than doubled across the country since 1988. While Athens State University (ASU) ranks among the most affordable higher education institutions in Alabama, at $5,370 per year, the institution faces the same troubling cost trend. Today’s generation of ASU students are paying more for tuition as a percentage of their income than past generations. To illustrate the rapid escalation in college costs in an environment of moderate wage growth let’s assume that three generations at this school in the 1970s. Since 1975, ASU’s primary sources of revenue include tuition from students and appropriations from state legislature. Assuming that each member of the family worked on a part-time basis earning the prevailing federal minimum-wage rate, how far would their earnings go towards paying tuition?

As highlighted in this scenario, Jake, a current ASU student, would be unable to cover the cost of tuition in a given semester even if he worked a part-time job. In fact, at 106% of earnings, tuition would consume all of Jake’s discretionary income. No money would be left over for other essential living necessities, including food, housing, or transportation. Jake and his dependents would need to rely upon other financial sources, such as loans or family gifts, to live. While Jake’s current financial situation is bleak, his immediate family would have been less burdened by tuition. Both Frank and Kate would have been able to use their earnings to not only pay their entire tuition, but would have had over 70% of their discretionary income left over. In fact, Frank would likely have had enough money left over in the 1990s to raise young Jake without going into debt.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the average college graduate in 2014 will have over $33,000 dollars in student loan debt, an increase of over 70% in the past decade. Few students can work their way through school anymore with most relying on student loans. What will happen to college access rates if the student lending market collapses? With over $1.2 trillion dollars in total student loan debt across the USA that cannot be discharged in bankruptcy court, such a prospect is not beyond the realm of possibility. This financial epidemic poses a grave risk to our future national prosperity.
NEW FACES

Nikki Schrimsher

Niki Hatton

Callie Patterson

Mrs. Nikki Schrimsher has served as Admissions Specialist at Athens State since 2009. Look for her now in the Transfer Student Success Center as the new College of Education Transfer advisor. Nikki will assist transfer students especially with College of Education majors and will also assist with new retention efforts aimed to help our students complete their Success Stories! Nikki will be located in the Sandridge Student Union Building. She can be reached by email to Nikki.schrimsher@athens.edu or phone 256-233-8159.

We also welcome to Ms. Niki Hatton. Niki joins Athens State University as an Admissions Advisor. She will assist students with admissions to Athens State and serve as an admissions advisor and recruiting to prospective students across the state and online. Niki is a 2011 Alum of Athens with a BS in Accounting.

Welcome to Ms. Callie Patterson. Ms Patterson joins Athens State University as an Admissions Advisor. Callie will assist students with admissions to Athens State and serve as an admissions advisor and recruiting to prospective students across the state and online. You may remember Callie as a former student worker in the Admissions Office. Callie is a 2013 Alum of Athens State University.
Even though the New Year is well underway, I wanted to wish you every success in 2015. 2015 is THE year for making great progress toward your success story with your degree completion. Over the holidays I read an online article from Kiplinger’s entitled, Best College Majors for a Lucrative Career. The article listed the 10 best college majors based on comparison data for entry and mid-career pay; highly sought after in the workplace and strong growth potential. I noticed many of the top 10 majors for great careers are Athens State majors! Students at Athens State can pursue Computer Science with three options, Management Information Systems, Information Technology and Mathematics. We also offer economics, statistics and finance as minor options.

Here’s a chart for easy reference

More than 430 students are currently pursuing these majors and 16 are pursuing a Finance minor. These students can expect to have improved career options based on this study. If you are still undecided about your career goals and major choice you will want to consider these. If you are set on your goals and your major the next step is to improve your career skills. Check out our spring offerings from the Career Development Center. In addition to these events below, the Career Development Center can assist you with resume reviews and interviewing skill development. Don’t wait until you have your degree in hand to start developing your career.

Keep in mind, when your long term goals and majors are more closely aligned you are most likely to have greater job satisfaction as reported by Eduventures and summarized in this chart.

I look forward to Your Success Story here at Athens State and in your careers after graduation. Student Support Services are available to assist you in meeting your goals at Athens State University. Let us know how we can assist you!

To your Success!
Sarah McAbee, MBA Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services
256-233-8172
Sarah.McAbee@athens.edu
FALL COMMENCEMENT
Practical Lessons in Writing for Success:
QEP Institutional Success Intra-College Forum

Fall 2014

The Fall Intra-College Forum for Faculty sponsored by the QEP Institutional Success Team was held on November 21, 2014 immediately following the scheduled Faculty-Staff meeting. There were two 45 minute concurrent session sets on topics the team had collaborated as relevant and practical for our use and application. These were as follows:

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 10:45AM-11:30AM:

Concurrent Session #1-Session A (Classroom Building Rm 204): 10:45am-11:30am

Manuscript Editing—In this session, participants received professional advice from Randall Williams, Editor of NewSouth Books on manuscript editing as it relates to periodical literature, chapters in books, and entire books. Participants learned more about an editor’s perspective to assist in your personal publishing opportunities and ensuring their success for acceptance.

Concurrent Session #1- Session B (Classroom Building Rm 104) 10:45am-11:30am

Purpose and Use of Blogging—In this session, participants learned about the utility of blogging, how to write a blog, how to post a blog, and use of the Athens State University blog application. Speakers included a wide range of blogging expertise: Dr. Lisa Rich, Mr. Guy McClure, Athens State University, and Ben Eubanks, UpStart HR, Co-Founder-HRevolution (Athens State graduate and professional blogger)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 11:45AM-12:30PM:

Concurrent Session #2- Session A (Classroom Building Rm 204) 11:45am-12:45pm

Manuscript Editing—Concurrent Session #2- Session B (Classroom Building Rm 104) 11:45am-12:45pm

Student-Faculty Publishing—In this session, participants gained knowledge from presenters about best practices and opportunities for student-faculty joint publishing, as well as recommendations for pursuing this type of collaborative research opportunity. Speakers included: Dr. Yadi Ziaehezarjeribi, Dr. Bryan Kennedy, Dr. Sam Khoury, Dr. Rick Roberts-Athens State University

The aforementioned sessions provided an excellent opportunity to learn from the expertise of colleagues, as well as invited subject matter expert guests currently working in the field. Thanks to QEP Institutional Success team members and others who made this event such as success!
Through my experiences and adventures with Athens State University and the Adult Degree Program, my goal of completing my college degree was accomplished. Understand the term adventure is used here for managing or navigating: full time student, full time employee and full time father. Yet, with the assistance of my counselor Ms. Felicia Mucci and the staff at Athens State University, the impossible or improbable (graduation) became manageable. I could not have successfully completed my diploma or graduation without the Adult Education Program and Athens State University. So my words of closing; Exercise the resources of the Athens State University Staff, stay committed, and finally “if it is worth doing, it is worth doing well”. – Christopher Adamson

Christopher Adamson enrolled in the Adult Degree Program in the summer of 2013. He was able to use prior learning that he acquired from 15+ years in management positions to help him graduate in August of 2014 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Studies. Christopher is the plant manager at Caraustar in Corinth Mississippi.
2014-15 SPRING CAREER EVENTS

Results Resumes
February 24 @ 6 to 7:30 in the Classroom Building, CB104
Register to attend: www.athens.edu/resultsresumes

ACM and LSM Networking Reception (in partnership with Alumni Affairs)
February 26 @ 6pm (7:30 – Havoc Hockey Game) at the Von Braun Center
Representatives from local NCMA affiliated companies will also be attending. Limit two (2) complimentary reception admissions and Havoc tickets per student, alum or faculty RSVP to 256-233-8185 or alumni@athens.edu

Head to Toe: First Impressions Matter
March 12 @ 6 to 7:30 in the Classroom Building, CB204
Register to attend: www.athens.edu/headtotoe

Career Chat: Career Fair Prep
March 17 @ 1:00 in the Classroom Building Lobby

Nashville Area Career Fair
March 31 @ 10:00 to 3:00 at the Williamson County Ag Expo Park
*A ticket is required to attend this event. Call or stop by our office for your ticket.

Career Chat (Phone Conference): Career Fair Prep
April 14 @ 6:00
Register to participate: www.athens.edu/careerchat

Spring Career Fair
April 16 @ 9:00 to 11:30 in the Carter Gymnasium

College of Education Career Event
April 16 @ 12:30 in the Ballroom

Visit our website for helpful resources, including a Recording of the Resume 101 Online Workshop: www.athens.edu/career
Results Resume

ATHENS.EDU/RESULTSRESUMES

FEBRUARY 24, 2015  6:00-7:30 P.M.
REGISTER: ATHENS.EDU/RESULTSRESUMES
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Apply to the Student On-Campus Work study Pool
**Applicant must be currently enrolled as an Athens State University student.
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256-534-2423 or 1-800-547-8172

This image contains text about job opportunities, financial switching services, and information about North Alabama Educators Credit Union (NAECU) locations. There is also a coupon offering a $15.00 deposit into a new account when presented at any of NAECU's four office locations.